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ART 34 AMDT

We claim:-

1. A process for preparing a liquid formulation of salts of sulfonated azo dyes, comprising a) preparing vesuvin from m-phenylenediamine; b) without interveningly isolating the vesuvin coupling an at least equimolar amount of diazotized aminoarylsulfonic acids I

$$H_2N - Ar - SO_3H \qquad (I),$$

where Ar is phenylene (which may be monosubstituted by sulfo) or naphthalene (which may be mono- or disubstituted by sulfo and/or monosubstituted by hydroxyl) onto vesuvin and c) isolating the dyes in their acid form and subsequently dissolving them in aqueous bases.

2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the azo dyes are prepared from o-, m- and/or p-aminobenzenesulfonic acid diazo component.

3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein vesuvin and diazo component are used in a stoichiometric ration in the range from 1 : 1 to 1 : 4.

4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the azo dyes are isolated by adjusting the pH to a value in the range from 0 to 4.5.

5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the azo dyes are crystallized by stepwise acidification.

6. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the sulfonated azo dyes are crystallized in their acid form at from 20 to 70°C.

7. A liquid formulation obtainable according to any of claims 1 to 6, comprising solubilizing additives selected from the group consisting of ureas, mono-, di- or triethanolamine, caprolactam, mono-, di- or trialkylene glycols having C_2-C_5-alkylene units, and also oligo- and polyalkylene glycols having ethylene and/or propylene units and also their C_1-C_4-alkyl ethers and C_1-C_4-alkyl esters.

8. A liquid formulation as claimed in claim 7, containing from 15% to 30% by weight of sulfonated azo dyes based on the dye without counterion and from 0% to 30% by weight of solubilizing additives based on the total amount of the aqueous liquid brand.